

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Original) A hollow rack shaft for a steering system, having:
two rack teeth groups respectively formed by plastic working and located longitudinally apart from each other.
 2. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 1, wherein:
said rack teeth groups are out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft.
 3. (Currently Amended) A hollow rack shaft formed of one plate workpiece for a steering system, wherein:
two rack teeth groups respectively formed by plastic working and located longitudinally apart ~~form~~from each other.
 4. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 3, wherein:
said rack teeth groups are out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft.
 5. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 4, wherein:
said rack teeth groups are sequentially formed by die forming.
 6. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 4, wherein:
said rack teeth groups are simultaneously formed by die forming.
 7. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a hollow rack shaft for a steering system having two rack teeth groups, said groups being located longitudinally apart from each other and out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft, wherein:
said shaft is formed of one plate workpiece having two areas; and

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cut the center lines in the longitudinal direction at said areas are offset corresponding to phase difference between said rack teeth groups.
